

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 HONG K 00467 140348Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /081 W

----- 085371

R 140310Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

S E C R E T HONG KONG 0467

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PBOR PFOR PG CH RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE INTEREST IN SPRATLEYS

REF: A) MANILA 0571 (NOTAL) B) CINCPAC DTG 080307Z JAN 76

(NOTAL)

1. NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF BUTTERFIELD TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT, IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH MARCOS IN SEPTEMBER 1975, HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SPRATLEYS. ACCORDING TO BUTTERFIELD, MARCOS COMMENTED -- AFTER FIRST NOTING THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAD ANOTHER NAME FOR THE ISLANDS -- THAT HE HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH TENG HSIAO-PING DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA IN JUNE 1975. MARCOS REPORTEDLY STATED TO TENG THAT THE PHILIPPINES WOULD CONTINUE TO CLAIM THE ISLANDS. TENG REPLIED THAT THE PHILIPPINES COULD CONTINUE MAKING ITS CLAIM AND THAT CHINA WOULD ALSO

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CONTINUE TO CLAIM THE ISLANDS. MARCOS COMMENTED TO BUTTERFIELD THAT HE INTERPRETED THIS BRIEF EXCHANGE TO

MEAN THAT THE STATUS QUO OF THE ISLANDS WOULD CONTINUE  
AND NO RADICAL CHANGES WOULD BE ATTEMPTED UNLESS OIL  
WAS FOUND IN THE AREA.

2. COMMENT: THE ABOVE REPORT AND ANALYSIS SEEMS QUITE  
PLAUSIBLE TO US. WE AGREE FULLY WITH VIEWS IN REFTEL  
THAT THE PRC REGARDS THE SPRATLEYS AS CHINESE TERRITORY  
AND IS IN NO WAY PREPARED TO GIVE ON THIS ISSUE.  
CROSS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, ISLAND CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976HONGK00467  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760013-0530  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760159/aaaacagc.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANILA 571  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PHILIPPINE INTEREST IN SPRATLEYS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, PG, CH, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006